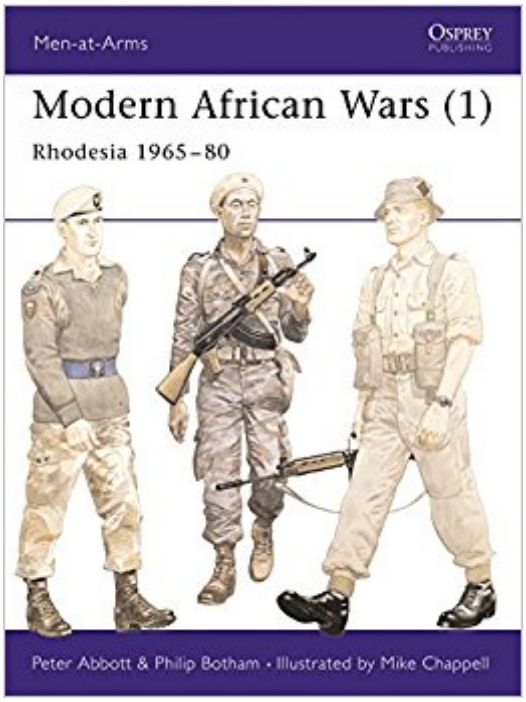
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Modern African Wars (1) 1965-80 : Rhodesia (Men At Arms Series, 183)



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Synopsis

The Rhodesian War of 1965Ã¢â ¬â œ80 is the battle for control of present day Zimbabwe. The former British colony of Southern Rhodesia rejected British moves towards majority rule and on 11 November 1965 the Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith announced his country's Unilateral Declaration of Independence from Great Britain. That act sparked a series of violent encounters between the traditional colonial army and the African guerilla insurgents of the Patriotic Front. This book examines the successes and failures of the counter-insurgency campaign of Smith's security forces and the eventual bloody birth of a modern African nation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Packed with specially commissioned artwork, maps and diagrams, the Men-at-Arms series is an unrivalled illustrated reference on the history, organisation, uniforms and equipment of the world's military forces, past and present.

Peter Abbott is a retired university lecturer. He has written or co-authored a number of Men-at-Arms titles for Osprey, including Men-at-Arms 131 Germany's Eastern Front Allies 1941-45 and MAA 202 Modern African Wars 2: Angola and Mozambique. He is particularly interested in 19th and 20th century armies that are less well known to the English speaking reader.

A another great book put out by Osprey (actaully 3 book series on Africa). Volume 1 is on the Rhodesia Bush War 1965-1980.This 48 page booket is full of historical text, photo's, drawings and

techincal data. It is a great intro book into the wars of Africa which have been fought form 1960 until the present. It is one of the best small book I have read with alot of into packed into a book. Great book at any price.

This is an informative book that anyone interested in history can rapidly read and understand the cause and effects of current modern wars in Africa.

This is another excellent history from Osprey . They keep the book length short and yet are able to give a good overview of this mostly misunderstood war . I recomend it . Lee

a title I have been seeking for sometime! all of the osprey references are very informative.

Like most Osprey books this title comes in at roughly 50 pages in length. The book is short; however, it is also concise and to the point. Some people are interested only in a large overview of certain military situations, and Osprey does the job masterfully with the overview.I knew next to nothing when reading this book on the Rhodesian Bush War of 1965-1980. The book did provide an interesting starting point to the fifteen year struggle between the white minority government of Rhodesian at the time, and the African nationalists who were waging a war to rid their country of white colonialism. With the massive disparity in men and resources (white Rhodesia had a population of 270,000 to roughly 5,000,000 black Africans) the war was an uphill climb from the beginning. The book characters the men who fought and died on both sides of the rifle; it also does a decent job of keeping the topic unbiased and neutral. With a topic like this, people usually get pretty torn up over it, and Osprey kept it professional the whole way through.Like I mentioned before, this is only a starting point to understanding the war. I also got Paul Moorcraft’s "Rhodesian Bush War" book to fill in some of the blanks left by Osprey, and together they paint a rather complete picture of the trials and failures of an incredible minority’s struggle to ward off decolonization in the twentieth century.

This book gives a good overview of the conflict, focusing only on what is important and detailing the units and major actions. The authors’ prose is delightful, making it hard to drop the book once you start reading it. For its size, Peter Abbott and Philip Botham did manage to put a lot of useful information on this 48 page MAA.Unfortunately, as this book is from 1986, all photographs are Black&White. The authors did a decent job at presenting the Rhodesian badges and insignias, but

missed the opportunity to add the famous badges of the RLI, the SAS and the Selous Scouts as insets on the plates.Another problem is Peter Abbott’s preference for showing walking out and cerimonial uniforms at the expense of combat uniforms, and the appearence of the plates do not reflect the actual appearence of the fighting men while "in the bush". The single biggest mistake of this book is to have only one plate of an RLI "Troupie", and using the Army Greens instead of the usual shorts with chest pouches and the typical field cap modelled after the French "Bigeard cap", with the Rhodesians using both locally manufactured and Portuguese ones. This fault is worsened by Abbott’s choice to include a Zambian soldier in cerimonial dress; a plate that is very detached from the subject.Another major blunder was to add Joshua N’Komo as a plate. Also, only two guerrillas are depicted, none using the almost universal "ChiCom" chest pouches, which is not depicted in any plate at all! The Selous Scout in plate C3 is unconvincing, as every picture about this unit shows heavily bearded men and they were nicknamed "Armpits" because of that, and the soldier depicted completely lacks facial hair. The regimental history of the Selous Scouts, as presented in this book, neglects the contribution of the Portuguese PIDE in its formation. Most plates are unarmed, and the SAS trooper is only depicted in his walking-out dress. The SAS and the RLI had to use AT guns in External Operations, so it would have been sensible to depict at least one AT operator. There is also a complete absence of Chinese advisors, that had a more important contribution to the war effort than the Zambian soldier in parade dress in plate F3. Also, Mugabe received North Korean advisors after the end of the war, and those advisors trained the Zimbabwe Army in its fight agains RENAMO (also neglected in the plates).Overall, a very good primer, with a clear and very readable text, but disappointing in terms of color plates. A solid four stars.

This book looks at the efforts of the Rhodesian armed forces to protect itself from Soviet- and Chinese-sponsored insurgents attempting to overthrow the white-dominated government. It includes a thumbnail sketch of the conflict, from the establishment of the colony by Cecil Rhodes to the attempts by the British government to hand over control of the state lock, stock and barrel to the Marxists to the unilateral declaration of independence. Rhodesia became a republic and tried to buy time for itself to develop as a multiracial state. However, the insurgents were determined to take over Rhodesia by force... when they weren’t fighting amongst themselves. Some information is also provided on the ZIPRA and ZANLA guerillas.As in other books produced by Osprey this slim volume provides an outline of how the war was conducted, sections on Rhodesian Army units such as the Selous Scouts and the Rhodesian African Rifles and their roles, and some material on the Rhodesian Air Force. It is well-illustrated with photographs, drawings and color plates. An excellent

addition to anyone’s African military library.

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